

The CCC Connection

A Riverside Citizens Corp Council Publication

Carmen Nieves, Executive Editor

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Welcome!



Welcome to the first edition of the CERT newsletter!

We are so happy to have you as part of the disaster response for the City of Riverside. You are an integral part of our team and the community will be looking at you for assistance, guidance and assurances during a major event.

As more community members become involved in CERT, we will be able to divide teams by neighborhoods. At this point, we will have leadership positions available for those interested. These positions and eligibility will be discussed at a November meeting where the Administrative/Operational Guidelines for CERT will be distributed.

The Newsletter will be a way for us to communicate with you. A column titled "Upcoming Events" and "Additional Training" will be in each edition. All upcoming events will list the

number of CERT volunteers needed. We are working on having our own website through the Fire Department Disaster Preparedness website. As soon as we are on-line we will notify you.

This is your newsletter and we welcome any experiences, photos, and articles from you. Please forward them via e-mail to Sharyn Dana at sdana@riversideca.gov

If you should have any questions, please contact my office at 826-5550 or via e-mail: cnieves@riversideca.gov

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Riverside Graduates First Adult CERT

Carmen Nieves is a very happy lady. She has finally had her dream come true.

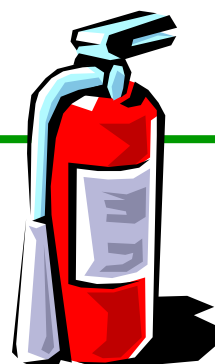
We now have 2 CERT teams in town. Our

first was a group of students from North High School. They were the pioneers who paved the way for the adult team

that graduated on September 1.

This was a group of citizens from diverse

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Would you be prepared if you were called out tonight?

Is your CERT bag readily available and filled with the items that you might need?

Graduates

(Continued from page 1)

backgrounds and varied neighborhoods. During the intense weekend, these determined folks eagerly soaked up the information that their instructors and handbooks gave them.

They also preformed hands on training in 90 degree plus weather. They built construction paper towers, bandaged, pulled, pushed, pried, searched, sprayed, wrote, read, listened, watched and played with shaving cream in latex

gloves. And most of all they made new friends and learned to work together as a team. This was a weekend that won't soon be forgotten.

Related articles and pictures on page 3

October features Vivian Widman



Vivian Widman, Senior Office Specialist in Emergency Management has been with the City of Riverside since December 28, 2001. In that short time she has been immersed in the world of disaster preparation, attended numerous classes to sharpen her knowledge, and participated in several drills and exercises. She says she is lucky to work with Carmen Nieves, "the master of disaster" (preparation, that is!), and the two great volunteers who assist in the Emergency Operation Center, Sharyn Dana and Kathy Peters. Vivian enjoys her position, especially all the as-

signments she gets that fall under the category of "other jobs as assigned"...they always seem to be so interesting!

A Wyoming native, Vivian grew up in Gillette, a small town in the northeastern part of the state. She attended the University of Wyoming for 3 years concentrating on journalism and sociology classes. She has recently taken several classes at Riverside Community College and plans to complete her Bachelor's degree in the near future. With her husband's career advancement, Vivian had the opportunity to live in a variety of places but always seemed to end up back in California.

Before obtaining her position with the City, Vivian enjoyed working in fields ranging from Employment Counselor (in Illinois), Farmer's Insurance Policy Representative (in Ari-

zona), Assistant Librarian (in Palos Verdes, Ca.) , school librarian (in Moreno Valley) and others. She loves to walk, hike, cook, read and swim. Upon the death of her husband of many years in 1999 due to cancer, her life became centered on her two children and two grandchildren. Her daughter Kimberly is a teacher in San Jacinto and her son Charles is a computer programmer in Redlands. Her granddaughters, Marisa age 9 and Mariah age 4, love to come to her house to swim and have pajama parties. They are, she says, her "favorite M & Ms".

Editors Note: *Vivian is the recording secretary for the Riverside Citizens Corps Council. She is highly respected for her work ethic, intelligence and the ability to get along with others. She also has a tremendous sense of humor. Wonder if she had that before coming to work in the EOC.*

Mark Your Calendar

Call Vivian @ 826-5550 to reserve your spot.
Classes that do not have adequate enrollment will be cancelled.

Special Events

Fire expo Oct 9 1000—1400 Galleria @ Tyler, Macy Parking Lot

Training

SEMS Intro Oct 27 1800—2000 Fire Station 12 **OR**
 Nov 3 1800—2000 Fire Station 12

Administrative/Operational Guide Lines
 Nov 10 1800—2000 Fire Station 12 **OR**
 Nov 18, 1800—2000 Fire Station 12

MIST (Multi Incident Supply Trailer) Trailer Maintenance To Be Determined

CERT 3 Oct 15, 16, 17 New Class now forming.

"Train Together, Respond Together"



RCCC congratulates all of our CERT graduates!



Congratulations!



Riverside
Citizen Corps Council

Carmen Nieves, Chair
Tedd Laycock, Vice Chair
Vivian Widman, Secretary

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Mission Statement

The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through **education, training, and volunteer service** to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

The Citizen Corps Web Site :

Everyone can do something to help make our families and our communities safer through:

Personal responsibility: Developing a household preparedness plan and disaster supplies kits, observing home health and safety practices, implementing disaster mitigation measures, and participating in crime prevention and reporting.

Training: Taking classes in emergency preparedness, response capabilities, first aid, CPR, fire suppression, and search and rescue procedures.

Volunteer service: Engaging individuals in volunteer activities that support first responders, disaster relief groups, and community safety organizations. Everyone can do something to support local law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, community public health efforts, and the four stages of emergency management: prevention, mitigation, response and recovery efforts.

Local Citizen Corps Councils will:

- promote and strengthen the Citizen Corps programs at the community level, such as **Volunteers in Police Service** programs, **CERT** teams, **Medical Reserve Corps** units, and **Neighborhood Watch** groups;
- provide opportunities for special skills and interests;
- develop targeted outreach for the community, including special needs groups;
- provide opportunities of training in first aid and emergency preparedness;
- organize special projects and community events;
- encourage cooperation and collaboration among community leaders;
- capture smart practices and report accomplishments;
- create opportunities for all residents to participate.

PLEASE SEND ME NEWS OF ANY CERT MEMBERS (OR OTHERS WHO FALL UNDER THE CITIZENS CORPS UMBRELLA) THAT YOU CATCH DOING SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY.

sdana@riversideca.gov

El Niño

At this time it appears that a mild El Niño may be forming. Should we be thinking about umbrellas and sand bags? Although the experts say it is too



soon to know for certain, there are signs pointing to the possibility (ie; increased hurricane activity and warming ocean temps). We will keep you informed.